

**MLA Documentation:
Navigating the 2016 Update
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What is MLA Documentation?

The MLA style of documentation is frequently used in the humanities, especially in literature, language, and cultural studies courses. With the MLA style, writers document sources in two different places within the paper:

- A detailed entry on a list of works cited that is included at the end of the paper.
- A citation within the text as the writer refers to the source (in-text citation).

What are the newest updates?

The eighth edition of the MLA handbook was published in 2016. In this edition, scholars seek to remedy one of the weaknesses inherent to the seventh edition of the handbook: separate rules for each type of source. In the eighth edition, the focus shifts to core elements associated with sources, regardless of medium:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

With the new rules, writers include these core elements as necessary or relevant, using the punctuation that has been indicated. Within the entry, elements should appear in this same order.

What do these categories mean?

1. An author is a person (or persons) responsible for producing the work. The author's last name is listed first:

Brooks, Gwendolyn

West, Dorothy

For sources with two authors, list the authors in publication order. The first author's name should be written last name first, and the second author's name should be listed in the normal order:

Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers

For sources with 3 or more authors, include the term et al. ("and others" in Latin) after the first author's name:

Suki, Ali, et al.

2. Include the title and subtitle of the source after the names of the author(s). Capitalize all words in the title except for articles (words like a, an, the), prepositions (words like of, in, out, between), and conjunctions (words like and, for, but, so, yet, or nor), unless these words are the first or last words of the title. Additionally,
 - Italicize the titles of longer works like books, plays, television series, entire websites, and films:
Gathering of Waters (book)
Middle of Nowhere (film)
 - Use quotation marks for shorter works like short stories, journal articles, magazine or newspaper articles, poems, single episodes of television series, and individual web pages:
"Racial Disparities in Legal Outcomes: On Policing, Charging Decisions, and Criminal Trial Proceedings" (journal article)
"Knots Untie" (television episode)
3. Some of the sources you reference are found in larger collections of sources. That larger source is the container for your source. For instance, the ADW reader is a container for different essays and book excerpts. Another example would be a single web page from a larger website. In this instance, the website would be the container.

Some electronic sources have more than one container. For example, you may find a journal article in *JSTOR* that was first published in an academic journal (container 1) and then hosted in the *JSTOR* database (container 2). In these instances, follow this format:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
Container 1
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.
Container 2
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,

7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

When writing the title of the container, follow the same rules for listing the title of the source:

The Atlantic (magazine)

Women's Work: An Anthology of African-American Women's Historical Writings from Antebellum America to the Harlem Renaissance (anthology)

Justice in Policing (website)

4. List other contributors such as editors and translators, especially if they are relevant to your research:
edited by Natasha Tarpley
illustrated by Rachel Isadora
translated by Gregory Rabassa
5. If your source is a specific edition or version of a work, list this information:
8th ed.
New Revised Standard Version
director's cut
6. Include the number of a particular volume in a multi-volume work, or the volume and number of an academic journal:
The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, 3rd ed., vol. 1
Gender and Education, vol. 22, no. 6
7. List the publisher's name for sources other than periodicals, self-published works, and databases. For websites, list the publisher or sponsor's name if it differs from the title of the website:
Bedford/St. Martin's
Univision Communications
8. Include the publication date for print and electronic sources. When sources are published in more than one medium, indicate the publication date relevant to your use of the source. For example, if you analyzed an episode of *The Walking Dead* that you viewed on *AMC.com*, include the date the episode was published to the website, not the date it aired on television.
6 Nov. 2014
Oct. 2012
2010
9. A source's location depends on its medium. For a print source that appears in a larger collection, include page numbers. For a web source, include the URL (or DOI for journal articles).
pp. 466-79

<http://www.amc.com/shows/the-walking-dead/season-6/episode-11-knots-untie>

In addition to these substantive changes, smaller changes related to style and method have been made as well:

- In the list of works cited, page numbers are prefaced by “p.” for a single page and “pp.” for multiple pages.
- With journals, volume and issue number are referenced in this manner – vol. 6, no. 2.
- Listing the city of publication is no longer necessary unless the work was published before the 20th century.

List of works cited

- On a separate page at the end of your paper, compose the list of works cited.
- Include an entry for each work you quote, paraphrase, or summarize in your text.
- Double-space the list and include the title “Works Cited” for multiple entries or “Work Cited” for a single entry.
- Alphabetize the list by the first word in the entry. (For example, if the source includes an author, alphabetize the entry by the author’s last name. If an author is not named in the source, you will most likely alphabetize the source by the first word of the title.)
- Include a hanging indent for each line of the entry after the first.

Works Cited examples

Book, one author

1. Author. Thurston, Baratunde,
2. Title of source. *How to Be Black.*
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher, Harper,
8. Publication date, 2012.
9. Location.

Thurston, Baratunde. *How to Be Black.* Harper, 2012.

Book, two authors

1. Author. Shange, Ntozake, and Ifa Bayeza,
2. Title of source. *Some Sing, Some Cry.*
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,

6. Number,
7. Publisher, St. Martin's,
8. Publication date, 2010.
9. Location.

Shange, Ntozake, and Ifa Bayeza. *Some Sing, Some Cry*. St. Martin's. 2010.

Ebook

Ebooks are often hosted in databases or other websites. Use the format for multiple containers with these sources.

1. Author. Reed, T.V.
2. Title of source. *Digitized Lives: Culture, Power, and Social Change in the Internet Era*.

Container 1

3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher, Routledge,
8. Publication date, 2014,
9. Location.

Container 2

3. Title of container, *ProQuest Ebrary*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.auctr.edu:2051/lib/atlunivctr/reader.action?docID=10879794>.

Reed, T. V. *Digitized Lives: Culture, Power, and Social Change in the Internet Era*.

Routledge, 2014, *ProQuest Ebrary*,

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.auctr.edu:2051/lib/atlunivctr/reader.action?docID=10879794>.

Work in an anthology

1. Author. McElroy, Colleen J.
2. Title of source. "Jesus and Fat Tuesday."
3. Title of container, *Calling the Wind: Twentieth-Century African-American Short Stories*,
4. Other contributors, edited by Clarence Major,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher, HarperPerennial,
8. Publication date, 1993.
9. Location. pp. 466-79.

McElroy, Colleen J. "Jesus and Fat Tuesday." *Calling the Wind: Twentieth-Century African-American Short Stories*, edited by Clarence Major, HarperPerennial, 1993, pp. 466-79.

Work from an electronic database

Article in an academic journal

Journal articles found in databases are examples of works with multiple containers. Use the format below to create entries:

1. Author. Ali, Suki, et al.
2. Title of source. "Intersectionality, Black British Feminism and Resistance in Education: A Roundtable Discussion."

Container 1

3. Title of container, *Gender and Education*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number, vol. 22, no. 6,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date, Nov. 2010,
9. Location. pp. 647-61.

Container 2

3. Title of container, *Academic Search Complete*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,

9. Location.

web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.auctr.edu:2051/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=2&sid=9fc8c310-60f0-4c76-95e3-23600b5f28a0%40sessionmgr4008&hid=4106.

Ali, Suki, et al. "Intersectionality, Black British Feminism and Resistance in

Education: A Roundtable Discussion." *Gender and Education*, vol. 22, no. 6,

Nov. 2010, pp. 647-61. *Academic Search Complete*,

web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.auctr.edu:2051/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=2&

sid=9fc8c310-60f0-4c76-95e3-23600b5f28a0%40sessionmgr4008&hid=4106.

Article in a monthly magazine (found in a database)

1. Author. Coates, Ta-nehisi,
2. Title of source. "Fear of a Black President."

Container 1

3. Title of container, *The Atlantic*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date, Sept. 2012,
9. Location. pp. 76-90.

Container 2

3. Title of container, *Academic Search Complete*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.auctr.edu:2051/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=5&sid=9fc8c310-60f0-4c76-95e3-23600b5f28a0%40sessionmgr4008&hid=4106.

Coates, Ta-nehisi. "Fear of a Black President." *The Atlantic*, Sept. 2012, pp. 76-90.

Academic Search Complete,

web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.auctr.edu:2051/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=5
&sid=9fc8c310-60f0-4c76-95e3-23600b5f28a0%40sessionmgr4008&hid=4106.

Short work from a website

1. Author. Burke, Lauren Victoria.
2. Title of source. "Movement for Black Lives Coalition Lobbies on Capitol Hill."
3. Title of container, *The Root*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher, Univision Communications,
8. Publication date, 15 Sept. 2016,
9. Location.

www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2016/09/movement-for-black-lives-capitol-hill/.

Burke, Lauren Victoria. "Movement for Black Lives Coalition Lobbies on Capitol Hill."

The Root, Univision Communications, 15 Sept. 2016,

www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2016/09/movement-for-black-lives-capitol-hill/.

A Tweet

1. Author. @byjoelanderson.
2. Title of source. "*But juxtapose reactions to Trump's refusal to accept election results with his refusal to accept the exoneration of the Central Park Five.*"
3. Title of container, *Twitter*,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date, 20 Oct. 2016, 2:01 p.m.,
9. Location.

<https://twitter.com/GeeDee215/status/789164727498739714>.

@byjoelanderson. "But juxtapose reactions to Trump's refusal to accept election results with his refusal to accept the exoneration of the Central Park Five."

Twitter, 20 Oct. 2016, 2:01 p.m.,

<https://twitter.com/GeeDee215/status/789164727498739714>.

In-text citations

- Include an in-text citation each time you quote, paraphrase, or summarize a source in your paper.
- Provide the author's name when you introduce the borrowed material, or place the author's name within parentheses before the ending punctuation in your sentence.
- Include page numbers for all print sources or electronic reproductions of print sources.
- Check to see that the in-text citation matches the corresponding works cited entry. The first word(s) of the works cited entry should be used for the in-text citation that refers to the source.

Examples of in-text citations

Author named in the signal phrase

Tan asserts that “the language spoken in the family, especially in immigrant families which are more insular, plays a large role in shaping the language of the child” (807).

Secondary Source

For a source cited in another source, include the original author's name and the words “qtd. in” before the rest of the citation.

According to sociologist Stewart Tolnay, African Americans who left the South in the 1940s and 50s “averaged nearly two more years of completed schooling than those who remained in the South” (qtd. in Wilkerson 262).

or

African Americans who left the South in the 1940s and 50s “averaged nearly two more years of completed schooling than those who remained in the South” (Tolnay qtd. in Wilkerson 262).

Two or more works by the same author

Either include the title in the signal phrase or include an abbreviated title in the parenthetical reference.

Ex. You include two works by Ntozake Shange in your paper: *Betsey Brown*, and *Sassafrass, Cypress, and Indigo*. You quote from *Sassafrass, Cypress, and Indigo*.

The sense of isolation Sassafrass felt continued to grow in San Francisco: “Her thin smocks for L.A.’s perpetual spring didn’t have the stuff in them to cope with the dense fog and chill of northern California; the cold she felt continually reminded her that she was alone – forsaken, she liked to believe” (Shange, *Sassafrass* 102).

Author not named

Use an abbreviated version of the title in place of an author’s name.

One form of tidal energy, tidal fences, “can reach across channels between small islands or across straits between the mainland and an island. The turnstiles spin via tidal currents typical of coastal waters. Some of these currents run at 5–8 knots (5.6–9 miles per hour) and generate as much energy as winds of much higher velocity” (“Tidal Energy”).

Unknown page number

Many electronic sources do not include page numbers. List page numbers only if they are included with the original source. If the sections or paragraphs of a web page are numbered, provide that information.

African Americans “are experiencing . . . a kind of privilege previously withheld—seeing our most sacred cultural practices and tropes validated in the world’s highest office” (Coates).

Works Consulted

ACC Library Services Information Literacy Team. "MLA Documentation 8th Edition, 2016." *Austin Community College Library Services*, Austin Community College, 11 Aug. 2016, <http://library.austincc.edu/help/mla/>.

MLA Handbook. 8th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Russell, Tony, et al. "MLA Style and Formatting Guide." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue University, 12 Sept. 2016, <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.